

CLAIMS

1. A microorganism belonging to the genus *Rhodococcus* and having the ability to degrade urethane bonds, or a
5 mutant strain thereof.
2. The microorganism according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism belonging to the genus *Rhodococcus* is *Rhodococcus equi*.
3. The microorganism according to claim 2, wherein the
10 microorganism belonging to *Rhodococcus equi* is *Rhodococcus equi* strain TB-60.
4. A method for degrading a urethane compound, which comprises the step of bringing the urethane compound into contact with the microorganism according to any one of
15 claims 1 to 3.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the urethane compound is a compound used as a source material for polyurethane production.
6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the urethane
20 compound is a polyurethane.
7. A method for degrading a polyurethane, which comprises the steps of:

bringing the polyurethane into contact with the microorganism according to any one of claims 1 to 3; and
25 bringing the polyurethane into contact with a microorganism having the ability to degrade ester bonds in the polyurethane.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the

microorganism having the ability to degrade ester bonds in the polyurethane is *Paenibacillus amylolyticus* strain TB-13 or *Comamonas acidovorans* strain TB-35.